

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 will be currently pending upon entry of the present amendment. Claim 8 has been amended. Claim 27 is new. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment.

Claims 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fierkens, U.S. Patent No. 5,275,546 ("Fierkens")

Fierkens does not disclose the invention recited by claim 8. Claim 8 has been amended to recite a molded portion having an injection area through which resin was injected to form the molded portion, a flashing portion of molded material extruded from a vent area of the molded portion, the vent area being spaced apart from the injection area of the molded portion; and a lead-frame external to the molded portion and having a hole adjacent to the vent area of the molded portion. Fierkens does not disclose a vent area or a hole adjacent to the vent area. Rather, Fierkens shows a pressure source 17 that injects pressurized molten plastic through a conduit 18, hole 27 and flow pocket 21 and into an injection opening of the mold 12, 14. As such, the hole 27 is immediately adjacent to the injection opening and not adjacent to a vent area that is spaced apart from an injection area. Accordingly, claim 8 is not anticipated by Fierkens.

Claims 9-12 depend on claim 8 and are allowable based upon their dependence on allowable claim 8.

Claims 1-5, 7, and 16-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jain et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,665,296 ("Jain") in view of Izuma et al., U.S. Patent 5,635,220 ("Izuma").

Jain and Izuma do not teach or suggest the invention recited by claim 1. The Examiner admits that Jain does not disclose an air vent as recited by claim 1, but points to Izuma as supplying this missing element. Claim 1 recites a structure having a frame with a through hole placed adjacent to an outlet of an air vent of a mold. Izuma teaches to fill a mold 100 via an aperture 308 and upper and lower gates 106, 107 (Fig. 4). An air vent 110 is located on an opposite side of the mold 100 with respect to the aperture 308. (Izuma, col, 5, lines 5-10)

Izuma teaches no other holes, and thus, does not suggest a frame with a through hole placed adjacent to an outlet of an air vent. Accordingly, any combination of Jain and Izuma would result in a device with an air vent placed on a opposite side of a mold from a through hole, rather than a through hole placed adjacent to an outlet of the air vent. Accordingly, claim 1 is nonobvious in view of Jain and Izuma.

Jain and Izuma do not teach or suggest the features of claims 2-5 and 7. Claims 2-5 and 7 depend on claim 1. As discussed above, the combination of Jain and Izuma would not result in the invention recited by claim 1. Claims 2-5 and 7 are thus allowable base upon their dependence on claim 1.

Although the language of claims 16-26 differs from that of claims 1-7, the allowability of claims 16-26 will be apparent in light of the above discussion.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jain in view of Izuma and Tsunoda et al., U.S. Patent 5,914,531 ("Tsunoda"). Jain, Izuma, and Tsunoda do not teach or suggest the invention recited by claim 6. Claim 6 depends on claim 1. As discussed above, the combination of Jain and Izuma would not result in the invention recited by claim 1. Tsunoda does not teach or suggest the features of claim 1 that are missing from Jain and Izuma. Accordingly, claim 6 is nonobvious in view of Jain, Izuma, and Tsunoda.

Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fierkens. Fierkens does not teach or suggest the invention recited by claims 13-15, which depend on claim 8. As discussed above, claim 8 is allowable and nonobvious in view of Fierkens. Accordingly, claims 13-15 are nonobvious in view of Fierkens.

New claim 27 depends on claim 8. As discussed above, claim 8 is allowable. Accordingly, claim 27 is allowable based on its dependence to claim 8 and its further recitations.

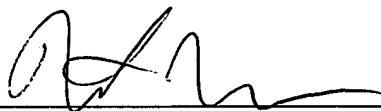
Application No. 09/917,406
Reply to Office Action dated June 15, 2004

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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